

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 8 are currently pending. Claims 5–8 are new. No new matter has been added. Applicant reserves the right to pursue original and other claims in this and in any other application.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,652,803 (Tachikawa et al.) (“Tachikawa”).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an image recognition apparatus for preventing counterfeiting of bank notes and valuable securities, comprising: “a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data; and means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion; wherein said dictionary data stored in said storage portion is erased at least at the time when the power is not on.”

Tachikawa discloses “a special-document discriminating apparatus used for providing a counterfeit preventing function to a digital copy machine and the like, and to a managing system for an image forming apparatus having a special-document discriminating function. The special-document discriminating apparatus is provided with a ROM for discriminating a special-document such as paper money, which ROM is detachably attached to a controlling circuit board. Data used for determination may be learned from test pattern data input from the image forming apparatus, or the data may be input from an external unit via a communication line.” (Tachikawa, abstract).

Tachikawa fails to disclose "said storage portion is erased at least at the time when the power is not on." In the embodiment of the Tachikawa invention identified by the Patent Office, the "storage portion" are NVRAMs. (Tachikawa, Col. 17, lines 9-33). As is known to those with skill, a NVRAM is generally known as a 'non-volatile random access memory.' This understanding is confirmed by Tachikawa's description of the NVRAM as consisting of an EEPROM-SRAM pair. (Tachikawa, Col. 17, lines 9-33). Being non-volatile, the data stored in the NVRAM is NOT "erased at least at the time when the power is not on." An individual could remove the NVRAM of Tachikawa when the power is not on and access data stored in the NVRAM. As such, the storage of data of Tachiki is different from the claimed invention.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons noted above with respect to claim1.

Claims 5-8 have a similar limitation as claim 1 and are also allowable.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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